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*himile, hwō fōrun thea hwiton sterron*, and, as a suggestive counterpart, *Elene* 87 ff.: *ūp lōcade . . . geseah hē . . . wuldres trēo ofer wolcna hrōf / golde ge[g]lenged*.

As to the expression *under sunnan*, its occurrence in the *Metres of Boethius* 14. 7 may be noted: *ðēah þēs middangeard ond þis manna cyn / sȳ under sunnan* (dative) *sūð, west, ond ēast / his anwalde eall underðieded*.

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### "UNDER THE SONNE"

Professor C. Alphonso Smith offers a tempting explanation (*Mod. Lang. Notes*, XXXVII, 120-1) of a passage in Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*, A, 1696-8:

whan this duc was come unto the launde  
Under the sonne he looketh, and anon  
He was war of Arcite and Palamon.

He believes that "under the sun" means "all around, turning from one point of the compass to the other," and in support quotes from several modern American versions of certain ballads. But it is very doubtful if the phrases in Chaucer and the second ballad are connected in history or meaning. The points of the compass, and the "all," which make the meaning clear in the ballad, are lacking in the Chaucerian passage. "All under the sun," being clearer than "under the sun," should be the earlier and not the later form. "Under the sun" and like phrases are common in Anglo-Saxon and especially in the Bible ("sub sole" occurs dozens of times in *Ecclesiastes*), and mean simply "on earth." This does not fit the *Knight's Tale* passage, so we may do well to consider another interpretation, not a poetic but a literal and perhaps colloquial one, which will show why the phrase apparently does not occur before Chaucer. As Theseus came out of the dark wood into the sunny glade, he peered in the direction of the early-morning sun, shading his eyes with his hand perhaps, a picturesque figure which has always seemed to some readers what Chaucer meant to sketch. This explanation seems quite as well as Dr. Smith's to fit the first ballad passage which he quotes.

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### A PORTMANTEAU WORD OF 1761: "TOMAX"

In the sixth chapter of *Through the Looking-Glass*, Alice meets Humpty Dumpty, and asks him to explain the meaning of the poem called "Jabberwocky." Everyone remembers the "hard

words" elucidated: *brillig*, four o'clock in the afternoon, "the time when you begin *broiling* things for dinner; *slithy*, which means 'lithe and slimy.' 'Lithe' is the same as 'active.' You see [said Humpty Dumpty] it's like a portmanteau—there are two meanings packed up into one word."

If Lewis Carroll was the inventor of the term, he was not the inventor of the thing. My colleague, Professor Paul R. Lieder, has called my attention to a portmanteau word dating from 1761. In that year was published at Boston a collection of gratulatory verses presented by the President and Fellows of Harvard College to the new King, George III; this volume is entitled: "*Pietas et Gratulatio Collegii Cantabrigiensis apud Novanglos. Bostoni-Massachusettensium. Typis J. Green & J. Russell. MDCCLXI.*" It includes verses in Greek, Latin, and English, written by various Harvard worthies, but no signatures were affixed to the contributions; the introduction itself bears simply the phrase

We are, with all humility,  
May it please your MAJESTY,  
Your MAJESTY's most loyal  
And most dutiful Subjects,  
The President and Fellows of Harvard College.

Two copies of this volume are to be found in the Harvard Library, and one copy is in the Boston Public Library. Both of the Harvard copies were acquired after the fire which destroyed the library in Harvard Hall in 1764, and neither is the first imprint of the first edition. Professor Lieder owns a copy (without the list of *errata* printed in the Harvard copies) which he found in a bookshop on Cape Cod; it contains readings later amended.

In one of the Harvard copies, the title-page of which is inscribed "Samuel Eliot 1761," may be found a note from Professor Norton, dated 31 January, 1879, to Justin Winsor, Librarian of the University, 1877-1897. It reads:

Dear Mr. Winsor:

I have little doubt that the name of the person who gave the '*Pietas et Gratulatio*' to S. Eliot was Lowell,—not Sewell [*sic*].

Mr. Eliot and the Lowells, father and son, were friends for many years.

Very truly yours,

C. E. NORTON.

The pamphlet was bound with others, the gift of Samuel A. Eliot in 1845; the second copy came to the Harvard Library in 1853.

There was no member of the Harvard Class of 1761 named Eliot, so the date after his name is evidently that of his acquisition of the book. His copy is filled with ms. notes of interest, only one of which need detain us here.

The eleventh contribution (beginning on page 31 of the pamphlet, and extending to page 41, inclusive) is written in the iambic pentameter couplet characteristic of the eighteenth century. The fulsome compliments to the sovereign we may pass over, pausing at one verse (on page 35) which reads

Here he restrain'd the Indian's thirst of gore,  
And bid the murd'rous tomox drink no more;

Among the ms. notes of Mr. Eliot is a footnote on this page 35 to "tomax." The word is, he observes, "compounded of Tomahawk and ax." It is a portmanteau word, which must have been as clear to the average reader in the England of 1761—as clear to George III himself—as *brillig* or *slithy* would have been to us, had not Humpty Dumpty kindly explained them.

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#### HENRY MORE'S *Psychozoia*

Miss Marjorie H. Nicolson, in her article on Henry More's *Psychozoia* in the March issue of *Modern Language Notes*, states that this poem was first published in 1648. After the first publication of his "Platonick Song of the Soul," of which *Psychozoia* forms the first part, More revised and enlarged his book. He 'licked' the poems, as he fondly thought, "into some more tolerable form and smoothnesse," and published the result under the general title, *Philosophicall Poems*. This is the book to which Miss Nicolson refers in her statement above mentioned; but this was the second edition of *Psychozoia*, and it was published in 1647, not 1648. The first edition was published under the general title, *Psychozoia Platonica: or a Platonick Song of the Soul*, in 1642.

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#### BRIEF MENTION

*Language: its Nature, Development, and Origin.* By Otto Jespersen (London, George Allen & Unwin, 1922. 448 pp.). Many a thoughtful reader will probably be surprised at the order in which the divisions of the subject are arranged in the sub-title of this treatise, because his sense of logical sequence would require 'Origin' to be placed first. To discover that Dr. Jespersen has in this been strictly logical is to discover the most distinctive feature of his linguistic speculation, for which one turns at once to page 418. That important page is preceded by paragraphs in which the *a priori* methods of reasoning about the origin of speech